

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this action. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the objections and rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Reconsideration in view of the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b) because the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance as discussed below; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been revised to, *inter alia*, correct typographical errors.

In the Office Action, claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Barrett et al. (US Pub. No. 2005/0055661), hereinafter “Barrett.” Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed subject matter is allowable for the reasons stated below.

With respect to independent claims 1, 8 and 15, Barrett does not disclose each and every claimed feature. First of all, Barrett discloses “[using] the same design manipulation processes for both chip design and kerf design” (abstract), but does not disclose generating a process aid on a wafer, as claimed in the claimed invention. In the claimed invention, a process aid “do[es] not ultimately constitute part of the chips.” (Paragraph 0004 of the current application). A kerf may provide room for a process aid (*see, e.g., id.*), but a process aid and a kerf are two distinct things. To further clarify this feature, the claimed invention has been amended to include “the process aid being different than a kerf on the wafer.” Applicants submit that the original disclosure, e.g., paragraphs [0004] and [0007], provide antecedent basis for this amendment, and no new matter

has been entered. As such, the disclosure of Barrett regarding manipulation of kerf design data only does not anticipate the claimed invention of, e.g., generating a process aid.

In the Office Action, the Office asserts that Barrett discloses alignment sites and processing assist features. (Office Action at page 7, citing paragraphs [0005], [0006], [0024] and [0026] of Barrett). However, Barrett does not disclose details of the claimed invention regarding generating a process aid. Instead, Barrett generates kerf data, which is different than a process aid.

Specifically, Barrett does not disclose, *inter alia*, “accessing a process aid instruction file to attain instructions for building the process aid[.]” (Claim 1; similarly claimed in claims 8 and 15). Barrett only discloses entering processing parameters, but does not disclose a processing aid instruction file for building the process aid. (*See, e.g.,* [0027], “[t]he processing parameters entered via the GUI”.)

Moreover, Barrett does not disclose, *inter alia*, “building the process aid on the wafer using the instructions based on the technology design rules and the process aid parameters.” (Claim 1; similarly claimed in claims 8 and 15). Barrett only discloses “manipulating chip design data and kerf design data concurrently” (paragraph [0019]), but does not disclose building a process aid. As such, Barrett does not discloses building the process aid on the wafer using the instructions based on the technology design rules and the process aid parameters.

In view of the foregoing, Barrett does not anticipate the claimed invention. The dependent claims are believed allowable for the same reasons stated above, as well as for their own additional features.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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